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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# **Federal Judge Sentences Deadbeat Dad and Author of Divorce Dirty Tricks to 16 Months in Prison**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on March 10, 2003, the Honorable James A. Teilborg sentenced Robert H. Morrison to 16 months in prison after he pled guilty to a violation of the Federal Child Support Enforcement Act in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona. Morrison was given the maximum sentence available under Federal Sentencing Guidelines and was ordered to pay over \$165,000 in past due child support as restitution.

Morrison had been charged with Failure to Pay Child Support, Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 228(a)(3), commonly known as the "Deadbeat Parents Act". Robert and Patricia Morrison were married in April of 1980. Their only son was born in March of 1990. Mr. Morrison filed for legal separation in Maricopa County, Arizona and thereafter for divorce in the summer of 1990. Throughout the divorce proceedings, Mr. Morrison was ordered to pay temporary child and spousal support. On five separate occasions, Mr. Morrison filed requests for modification of the support, all of which were denied by the court. Mr. Morrison was held in contempt of court on two occasions and was ordered to spend 30 days in jail due to failure to pay the court ordered support amount. Just before trial in the underlying divorce, the defendant

fled. The court granted dissolution of the marriage and ordered Mr. Morrison to pay child support in the amount of \$850.00 per month. Morrison was a fugitive for nine and one-half years until he was arrested by Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General agents in January of 2001. He paid no child support and had no contact with his son during that time. Morrison moved to California, using various aliases and identities, in order to conceal his whereabouts and assets.

Mr. Morrison is the author of the book Divorce Dirty Tricks which provides advise regarding how to avoid or reduce child support obligations. The preface provides that the book is about “legalized thuggery” and teaches its readers:

**how to be the dirtiest, rotten, meanest, most low down (expletive) you could ever hope to meet. It will show you how to take someone’s hide before they know what happened to them. It will show you how to be a cold blooded, heartless (expletive) with a completely ruthless outlook on the world and an eye for only the main chance. This is, in short, a book, on how to get divorced.**

Morrison advocates “making yourself poor” and suggests in one chapter to simply “disappear completely” and “surface” under a new identity. He notes that “vanishing” can be achieved by obtaining the birth certificate of a deceased person and creating a “paper trail” for the new identity. Heeding his own advise, Morrison has used at least two aliases and two social security numbers while a fugitive.

The Court remarked during sentencing that Morrison was the “poster child” of deadbeat parents.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Scott Gompert of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. The prosecution was handled by Ashley Adams-Feldman, and Peter S. Sexton, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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